

# News

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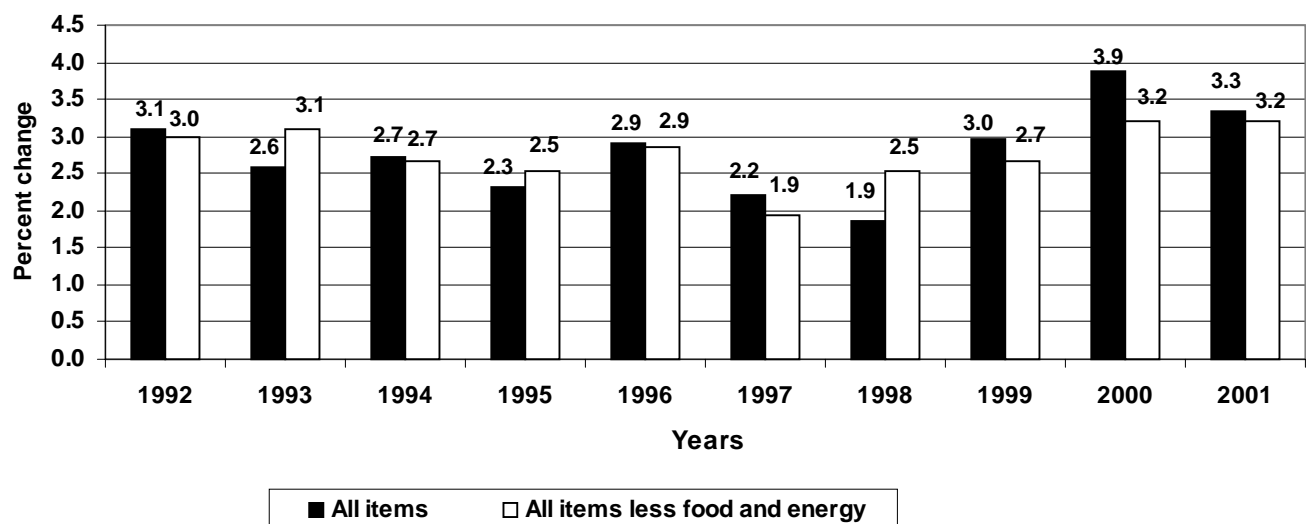
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## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE WEST – SEPTEMBER 2001

Overall consumer prices in the thirteen westernmost states advanced 0.3 percent in September. Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson of the Bureau of Labor Statistics said price reductions in food and beverages and housing were more than offset by advances in the other six major categories this month. Year to date, the overall price level increased 3.0 percent, compared to the 3.6 percent advance in the first three-quarters of 2000. Over the year, overall prices advanced 3.3 percent while the all items less food and energy index advanced 3.2 percent. Regional area Consumer Price Index (CPI) data are not seasonally adjusted.

**West Region Annual Percent Change  
September 1992 to September 2001**



Higher transportation prices in September provided the strongest contribution to the rise in the all items index. The transportation index increased 0.9 percent this month, following two months of lower prices, but showed a 0.5 percent decline over the year. Similarly, gasoline prices fell 15.1 percent from May to August, but jumped 6.3 percent in September. Nevertheless, compared to one year ago, gasoline prices measured 5.2 percent lower. New vehicles' prices declined 0.7 percent for the month, following a 0.6 percent decline in August, and were 1.8 percent lower than in September 2000.

Apparel prices increased 2.9 percent in September, the largest monthly increase of all eight major expenditure categories. Since September 2000, however, the apparel index has declined 3.2 percent.

The other goods and services index, which includes tobacco and smoking products, increased 0.9 percent in September. This increase nearly offset the 1.3 percent decline in August. The index has advanced 3.7 percent from last year's level.

The recreation index rose 0.6 percent this month and measured 0.4 percent higher than 12 months ago.

Medical care prices advanced 0.5 percent in September and were up 5.0 percent during the past 12 months.

Education and communication prices increased 0.4 percent this month and have advanced 1.9 percent since September 2000.

Food and beverages' prices inched down 0.1 percent this month, but showed an over-the-year gain of 3.5 percent. In September, grocery prices, as measured by the food at home index, decreased 0.3 percent, but prices paid for food away from home advanced 0.3 percent. Compared to last year's level, these indexes have increased 3.6 and 3.4 percent, respectively. Alcoholic beverages' prices increased 0.2 percent for the month and measured 2.7 percent higher than a year ago.

The housing index edged down 0.1 percent in September, the first monthly decline since a 0.2 percent change in December of 1996. Over the year, however, prices were up 5.7 percent, the largest annual increase among all major expenditure categories. The shelter index, which includes lodging away from home, remained unchanged this month, but advanced 5.7 percent over the year. Within shelter, rent of primary residence and homeowners' equivalent rent of primary residence both increased 0.5 percent in September. Compared to a year ago, these indexes advanced 6.4 and 5.8 percent, respectively. A decline of 1.2 percent in the fuels and utilities index over the month contributed to housing's decrease. The utility natural gas index dropped 5.9 percent in September, following a 4.2 percent decrease in August. The electricity index inched down 0.1 percent in September, following a 0.7 percent gain in August. During the past year, the utility natural gas index declined 3.6 percent, while electricity prices have increased 24.2 percent. Prices for household furnishings and operations moved up 0.2 percent in September, offsetting the 0.2 percent decline from the previous month.

In September, the All Items, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the West now stands at 182.5 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$182.50 in September 2001.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Sep. 2001	Sep. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001
Expenditure category						
All items .....	182.0	181.9	182.5	3.3	0.3	0.3
All items (December 1977=100) .....	294.2	294.0	295.0	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	178.4	178.9	178.8	3.5	0.2	-0.1
Food .....	177.7	178.2	178.1	3.5	0.2	-0.1
Food at home .....	182.9	183.3	182.8	3.6	-0.1	-0.3
Food away from home .....	170.0	170.8	171.3	3.4	0.8	0.3
Alcoholic beverages .....	186.3	186.8	187.2	2.7	0.5	0.2
Housing .....	187.6	188.4	188.3	5.7	0.4	-0.1
Shelter .....	207.0	208.2	208.3	5.7	0.6	0.0
Rent of primary residence (1).....	199.6	200.7	201.8	6.4	1.1	0.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2) .....	217.0	218.1	219.1	5.8	1.0	0.5
Fuels and utilities .....	172.5	171.9	169.9	12.1	-1.5	-1.2
Fuels .....	164.8	163.7	161.1	14.9	-2.2	-1.6
Gas (piped) and electricity (1).....	168.7	167.5	164.7	15.4	-2.4	-1.7
Electricity (1).....	181.4	182.6	182.5	24.2	0.6	-0.1
Utility natural gas service (1).....	158.7	152.1	143.2	-3.6	-9.8	-5.9
Household furnishings and operations .....	133.4	133.1	133.3	0.8	-0.1	0.2
Apparel .....	112.8	113.4	116.7	-3.2	3.5	2.9
Transportation .....	159.8	156.6	158.0	-0.5	-1.1	0.9
Private transportation .....	153.7	150.7	152.3	-0.3	-0.9	1.1
New and used motor vehicles (3).....	101.8	101.4	100.8	-0.4	-1.0	-0.6
New vehicles .....	141.1	140.3	139.3	-1.8	-1.3	-0.7
New cars and trucks (3) (4).....	98.2	97.6	96.9	-1.7	-1.3	-0.7
New cars (4).....	137.4	136.5	135.5	-1.6	-1.4	-0.7
Used cars and trucks .....	156.8	156.5	155.8	1.8	-0.6	-0.4
Motor fuel .....	138.9	126.4	134.3	-5.2	-3.3	6.3
Gasoline (all types) .....	137.7	125.2	133.1	-5.2	-3.3	6.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular (4).....	135.2	122.9	131.7	-5.5	-2.6	7.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (4) (5).....	134.5	121.2	127.3	-5.4	-5.4	5.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium (4).....	136.7	124.8	130.9	-5.3	-4.2	4.9
Medical care .....	270.6	273.5	275.0	5.0	1.6	0.5
Medical care commodities .....	251.5	252.2	254.8	4.2	1.3	1.0
Medical care services .....	275.3	278.7	280.0	5.2	1.7	0.5
Professional services (1).....	229.1	230.9	231.3	4.6	1.0	0.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Sep. 2001	Sep. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
Recreation (3).....	102.1	102.2	102.8	0.4	0.7	0.6
Education and communication (3).....	103.8	104.3	104.7	1.9	0.9	0.4
Other goods and services .....	289.6	285.8	288.5	3.7	-0.4	0.9
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	182.0	181.9	182.5	3.3	0.3	0.3
Commodities .....	152.2	150.9	152.1	0.7	-0.1	0.8
Commodities less food and beverages .....	136.7	134.4	136.3	-1.1	-0.3	1.4
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	145.7	142.0	145.9	-1.1	0.1	2.7
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel .....	169.0	162.7	167.0	-0.3	-1.2	2.6
Durables .....	126.0	125.4	124.9	-1.1	-0.9	-0.4
Services .....	208.8	209.7	209.9	5.1	0.5	0.1
Rent of shelter (2) .....	219.7	221.1	221.2	5.7	0.7	0.0
Transportation services .....	205.4	204.9	204.9	1.4	-0.2	0.0
Other services .....	230.9	232.0	233.1	2.5	1.0	0.5
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	177.2	177.0	177.6	3.3	0.2	0.3
All items less food .....	182.8	182.6	183.4	3.3	0.3	0.4
All items less shelter .....	173.0	172.3	173.1	2.1	0.1	0.5
Commodities less food .....	139.0	136.7	138.6	-0.9	-0.3	1.4
Nondurables .....	162.5	160.8	162.8	1.3	0.2	1.2
Nondurables less food .....	148.8	145.2	149.0	-0.8	0.1	2.6
Nondurables less food and apparel .....	170.2	164.4	168.5	0.1	-1.0	2.5
Services less rent of shelter (2) .....	217.9	218.4	218.5	4.1	0.3	0.0
Services less medical care services .....	203.1	203.9	203.9	5.0	0.4	0.0
Energy .....	148.9	141.7	144.8	4.0	-2.8	2.2
All items less energy .....	186.2	186.8	187.2	3.3	0.5	0.2
All items less food and energy .....	188.3	188.9	189.4	3.2	0.6	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities .....	142.4	141.8	142.8	-0.2	0.3	0.7
Energy commodities .....	140.1	127.7	135.6	-5.2	-3.2	6.2
Services less energy services .....	211.8	212.9	213.2	4.5	0.7	0.1

1 This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

2 Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

3 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

4 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

5 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.